

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: January 14, 2005

Comment Deadline: February 14, 2005

Corps Action ID Nos: 200411358 and 200411359

All interested parties are herby advised that the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for work within jurisdictional waters of the United States. Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands

Applicant:

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Division of Highways 1548 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1548

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this application and decide whether to issue, conditionally issue, or deny the proposed work pursuant to applicable procedures of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Location

Bridge Nos. 40 and 45 on SR 1003, between the intersections with SR 1108 and SR 1112, east of Enfield, over Beech Swamp, in Halifax County, North Carolina. The proposed project is located in the Tar-Pamlico River Basin, Hydrologic Unit 03020100. Lat.- Long, N 36.143717/ W 77.5578130.

Existing Site Conditions

The proposed work would impact 1.75 acres of Cypress-Gum Swamp. Cypress-Gum Swamps are a high quality resource, which filter sediments and nutrients from Beach Swamp and provide very important functions for fish and wildlife. The placement of the additional fill for the causeways will reduce the flows and circulation patterns of floodwaters and the capacity of the wetlands to store them.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

Bridge Nos. 40 and 45 are considered functionally obsolete and structurally deficient. The replacement of the inadequate bridge structures will result in safer and more efficient traffic operations.

Project Description

The following description of work is taken from data provided by the applicant. Plans submitted with the application show the placement of fill material impacting a total of 1.75 acres of wetlands. This includes 1.04 acres of permanent fill, 0.04 acre of excavation, and 0.67 acre of mechanized land clearing. These impacts are for the removal and replacement of Bridge Nos. 40 and 45, located approximately 850 feet apart on SR 1003 over Beech Swamp in Halifax County. The project involves replacing Bridge No. 40 on a new alignment while replacing Bridge No. 45 on the existing alignment. Traffic during the project construction will be maintained with an approximate 11-mile offset detour along SR 1100, SR 1102, SR 1103, SR 1105, and SR 1108.

Bridge No. 40, a 180-foot long structure, will include four 45-foot spans with 36-inch prestressed girders as superstructure. Bridge No. 45, at 130-feet long, will consist of three 43-foot spans with a 36-inch prestressed girder superstructure. The superstructure on both bridges will consist of H-pile end bents and 18-inch pipe pile bents. Construction of the bridge will require temporary dewatering due to the placement of temporary work bridges in the stream channel to allow access to the site.

NCDOT is proposing to use the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program to provide the necessary compensatory mitigation for the unavoidable wetland impacts associated with this project.

The applicant has considered several alternatives to the proposed project. In addition, the applicant has committed to measures to avoid and minimize wetland and stream impacts.

NCDOT applied for a Nationwide Permit No. 23 on April 5, 2004. The Corps responded with a letter dated April 22, 2004, stating, "Based on the information you have submitted, and our knowledge of this site, we have determined that your proposed project would cause greater that minimal adverse impacts to the environment and cannot be authorized under the general permit as presently proposed. Should you wish to further pursue DA permit authorization, you have the option of either applying for an individual DA permit, or modifying your present proposal to reduce impacts. We strongly recommend that you consider replacing the bridges with longer bridges. The slightly longer bridges will allow the removal of existing causeway and could produce a no net loss of wetlands." NCDOT has decided to apply for the same project under the individual DA permit process.

Overall plans showing the location of the proposed construction and impact sites are included with this public notice. Additional detailed plans, NCDOT's September 4, 2001, Categorical Exclusion document, and information about the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program, may be reviewed at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Field Office at 107 Union Drive, Suite 202, Washington, North Carolina 27889, or at the offices of the North Carolina Division of Water Quality at the address shown below.

Other Required Authorizations

This notice and all applicable application materials are being forwarded to the appropriate State agencies for review. The Corps will generally not make a final permit decision until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500). The receipt of the application and this public notice in the NCDWQ Central Office in Raleigh serves as application to the NCDWQ for certification. A waiver will be deemed to occur if the NCDWQ fails to act on this request for certification within sixty days of the date of the receipt of this notice in the NCDWQ Central Office. Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the NCDWQ Central Office, the Transportation Permitting Unit, 2321 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-2260. All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650 Attention: Mr. John Hennessy by February 7, 2005.

Cultural Resources

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and is not aware that any registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area or will be affected by the proposed work. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be located within the project area and/or could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant and consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database. Based on available information, the Corps has determined pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, that the proposed project will have no effect on federally listed endangered or threatened species or their formally designated critical habitat.

Evaluation

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

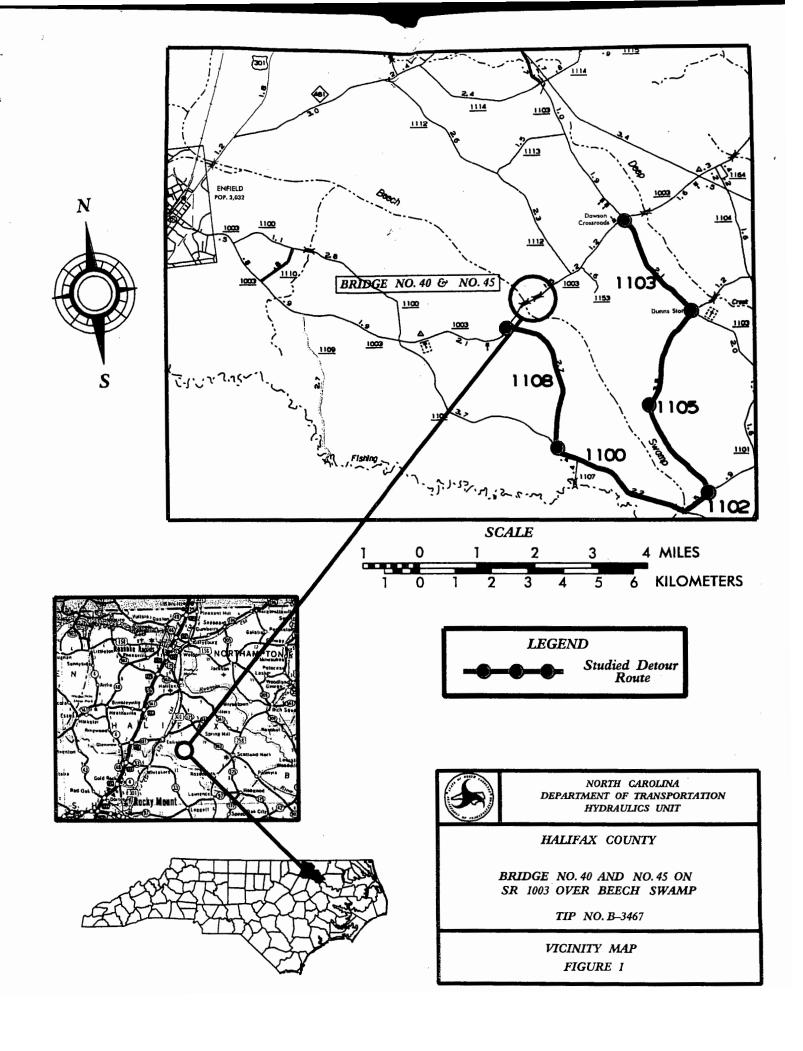
Commenting Information

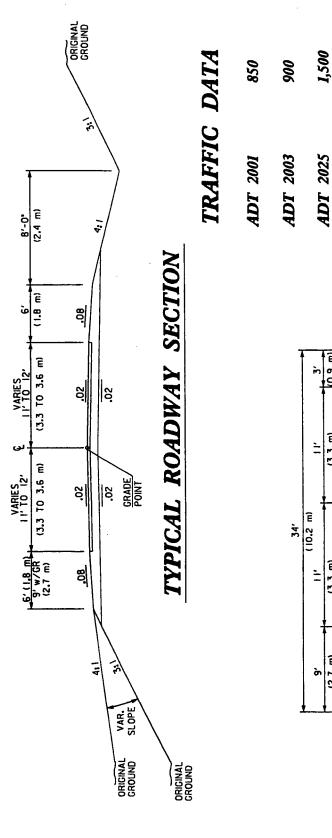
The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm, February 14, 2005. Comments should be submitted to:

Mr. William Biddlecome PO Box 1000 Washington, NC 27889 Telephone (252) 975-1616, extension 31





FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION: RURAL MAJOR COLLECTOR ADT 2025 DUAL TTST (0.9 E) TYPICAL BRIDGE SECTION (3.3 m) GRADE POINT

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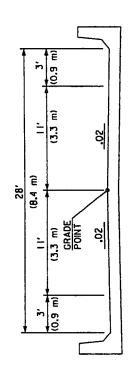
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PROPOSED BRIDGE NO. 40

TYPICAL BRIDGE SECTION PROPOSED BRIDGE NO. 45

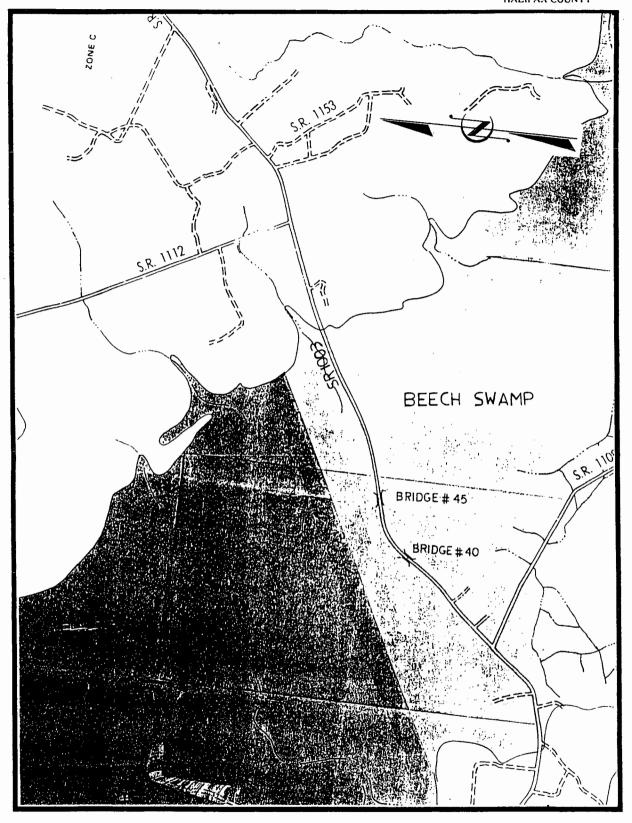
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECT DEVELOPEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH NORTH CAROLINA

HALIFAX COUNTY

BRIDGE NO. 40 & BRIDGE NO. 45 ON SR 1003 OVER BEECH SWAMP

B-3467

FIGURE



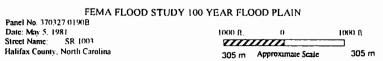
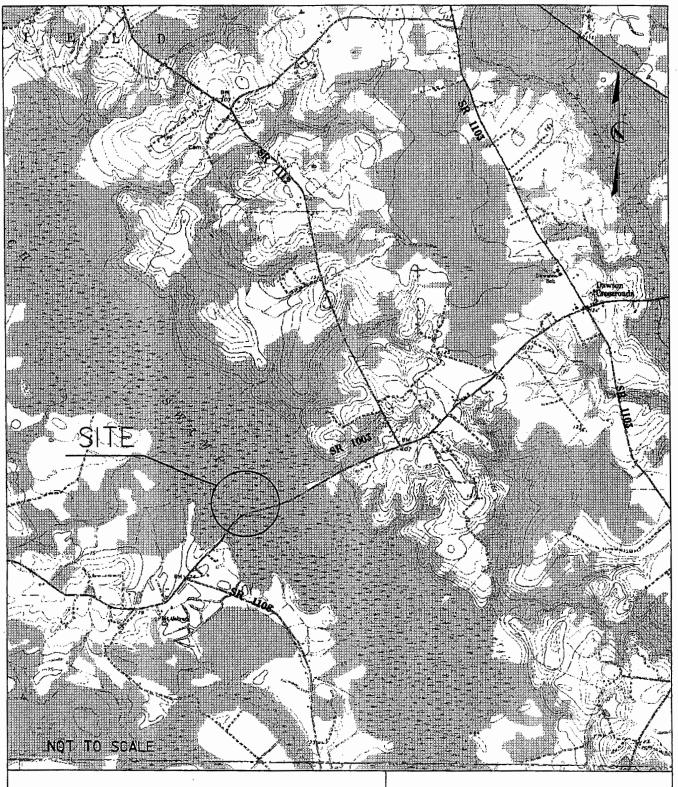


FIGURE 5



LOCATION MAP

N. C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
HALIFAX COUNTY
PROJECT: 8.2301201 (B-3467)

REPLACE BRG#40 AND BRG#45 OVER BEECH SWAMP ON SR 1003

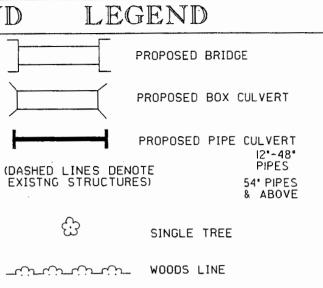
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WETLAND -WLB---- WETLAND BOUNDARY WETLAND DENOTES FILL IN WETLAND DENOTES FILL IN SURFACE WATER DENOTES FILL IN SURFACE WATER (POND) DENOTES TEMPORARY FILL IN WETLAND DENOTES EXCAVATION IN WETLAND DENOTES TEMPORARY FILL IN SURFACE WATER ■ DENOTES MECHANIZED CLEARING → FLOW DIRECTION - TOP OF BANK WE - EDGE OF WATER - $\stackrel{ extsf{C}}{--}$ - PROP.LIMIT OF CUT – —^F— — PROP.LIMIT OF FILL - PROP. RIGHT OF WAY -- NG-- NATURAL GROUND _ PL _ PROPERTY LINE - TDE - TEMP. DRAINAGE EASEMENT -- PDE --- PERMANENT DRAINAGE EASEMENT - EAB - EXIST. ENDANGERED ANIMAL BOUNDARY - EPB - EXIST. ENDANGERED PLANT BOUNDARY --- WATER SURFACE LIVE STAKES BOULDER

CORE FIBER ROLLS





RIP RAP

ROOTWAD

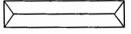


ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER OR PARCEL NUMBER IF AVAILABLE

DRAINAGE INLET



PREFORMED SCOUR HOLE



LEVEL SPREADER (LS)



DITCH / GRASS SWALE

NCDOT

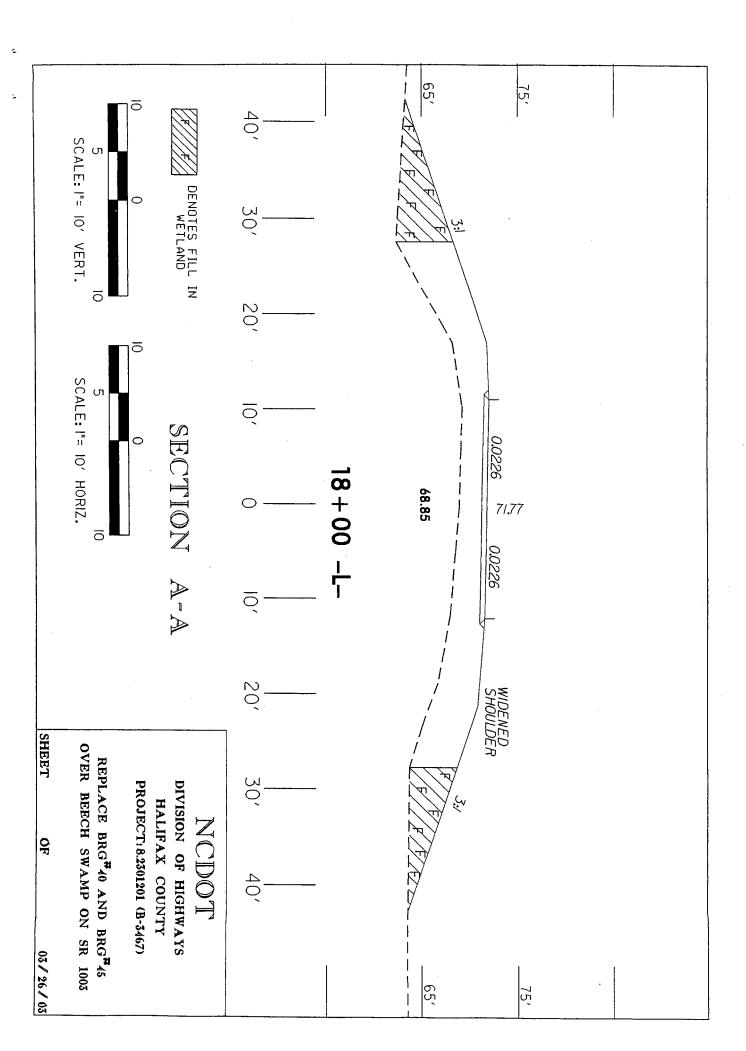
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
HALIFAX COUNTY
PROJECT: 8.2301201 (B-3467)

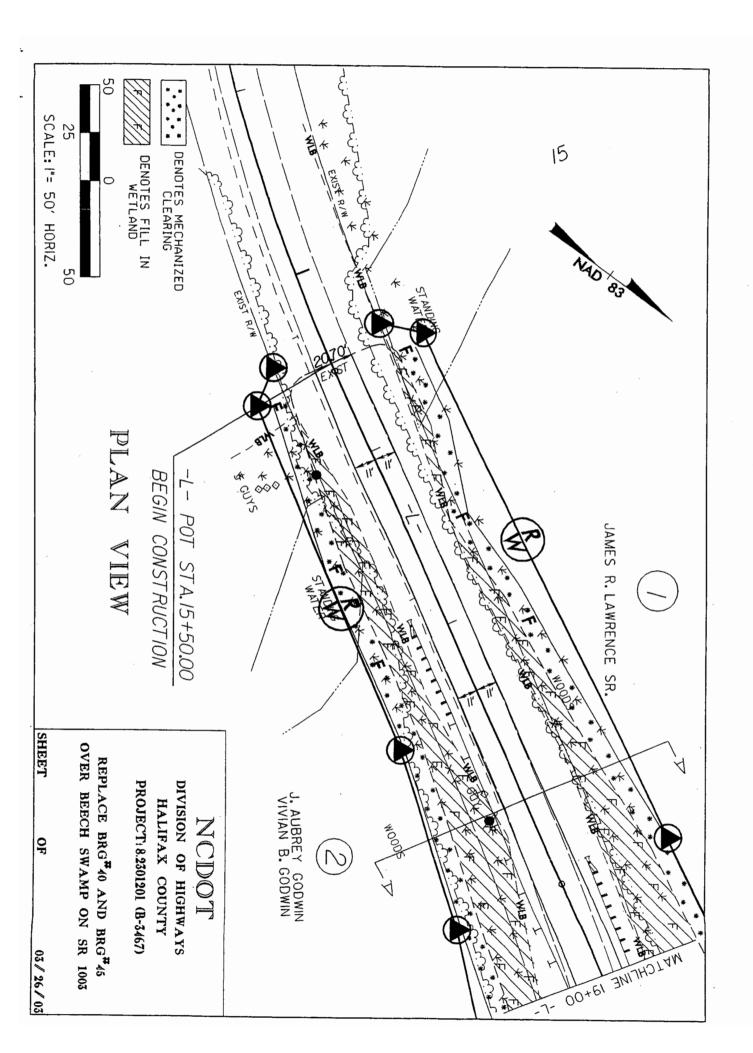
REPLACE BRG#40 AND BRG#45 OVER BEECH SWAMP ON SR 1003

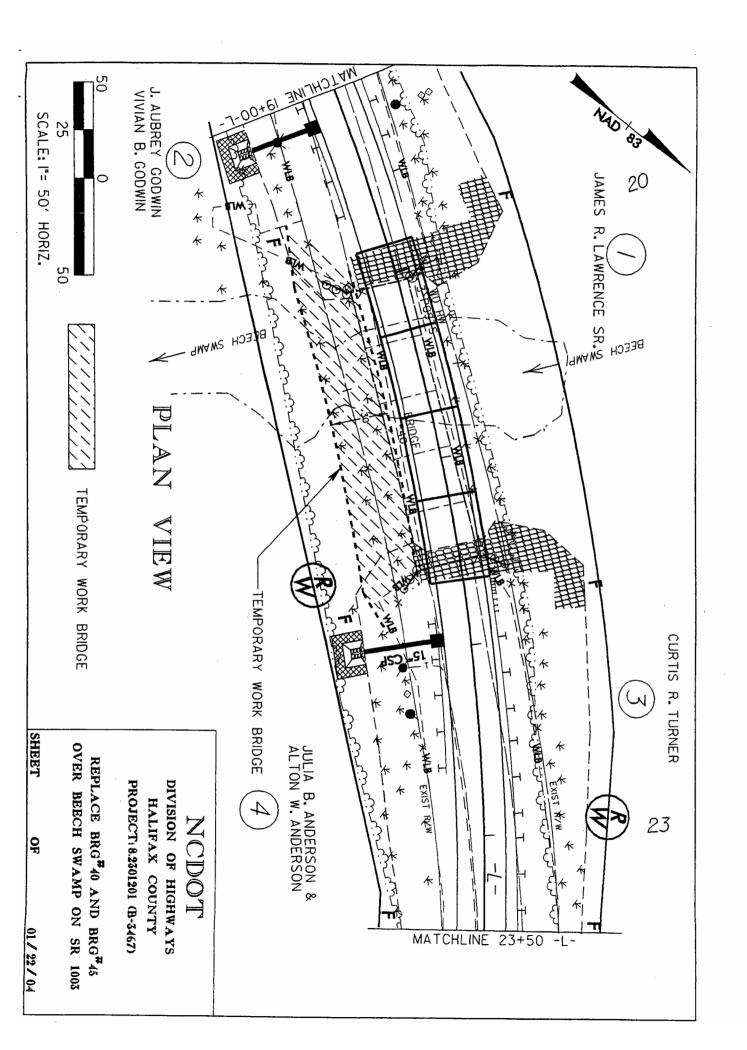
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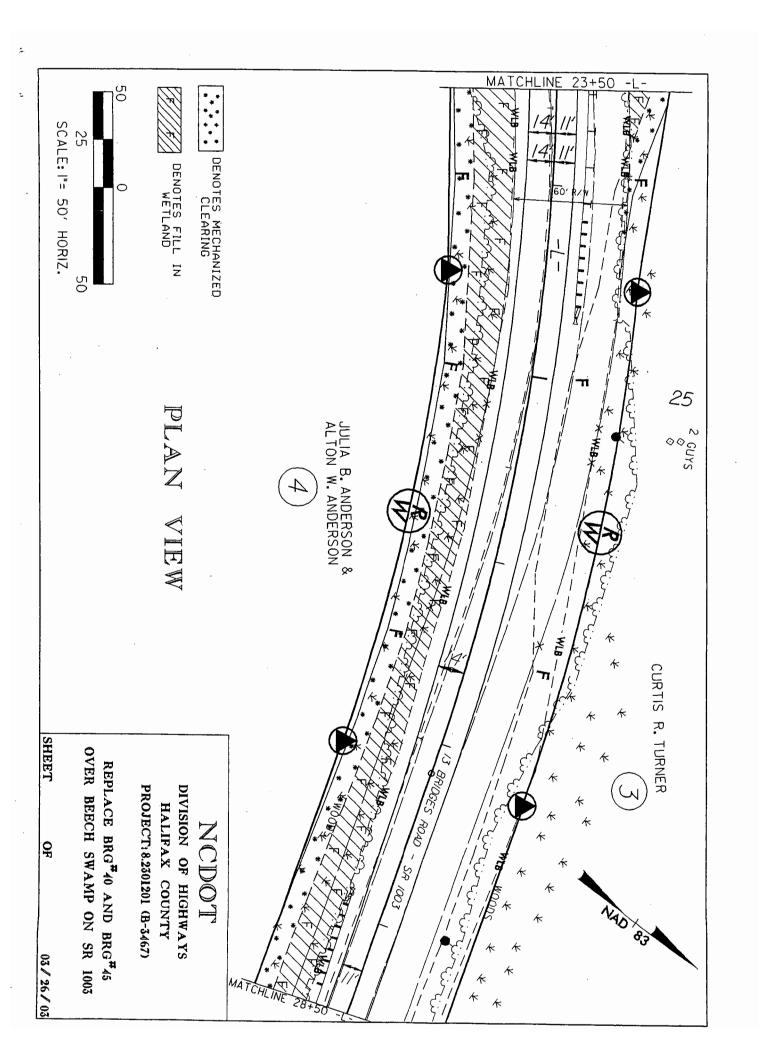
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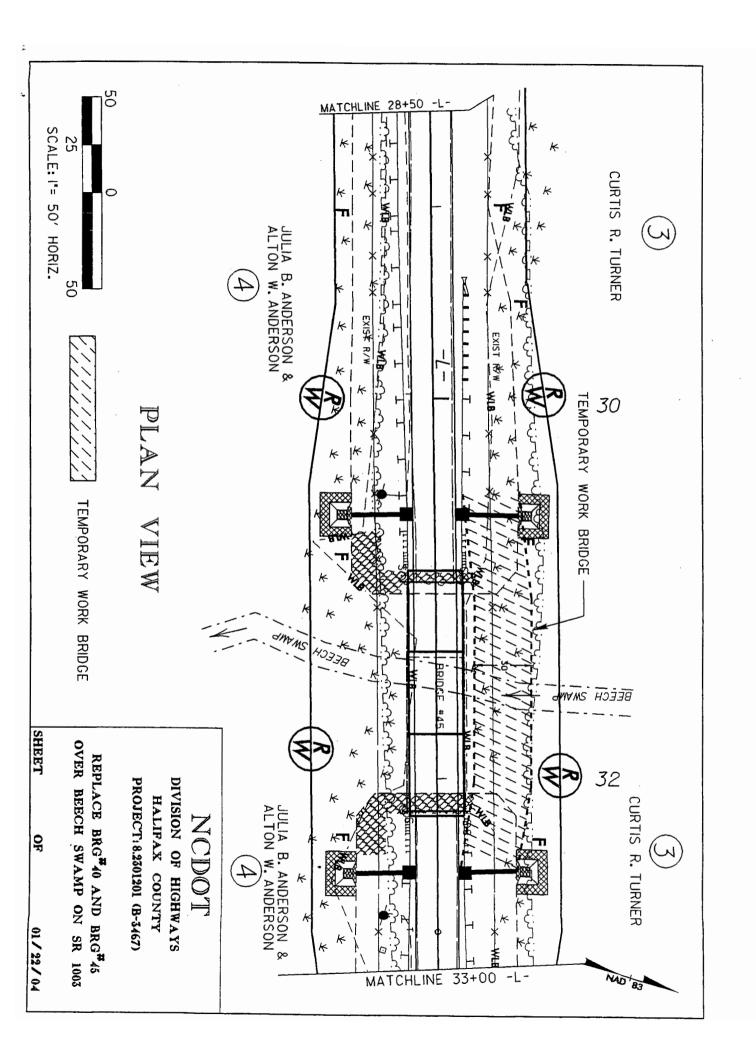
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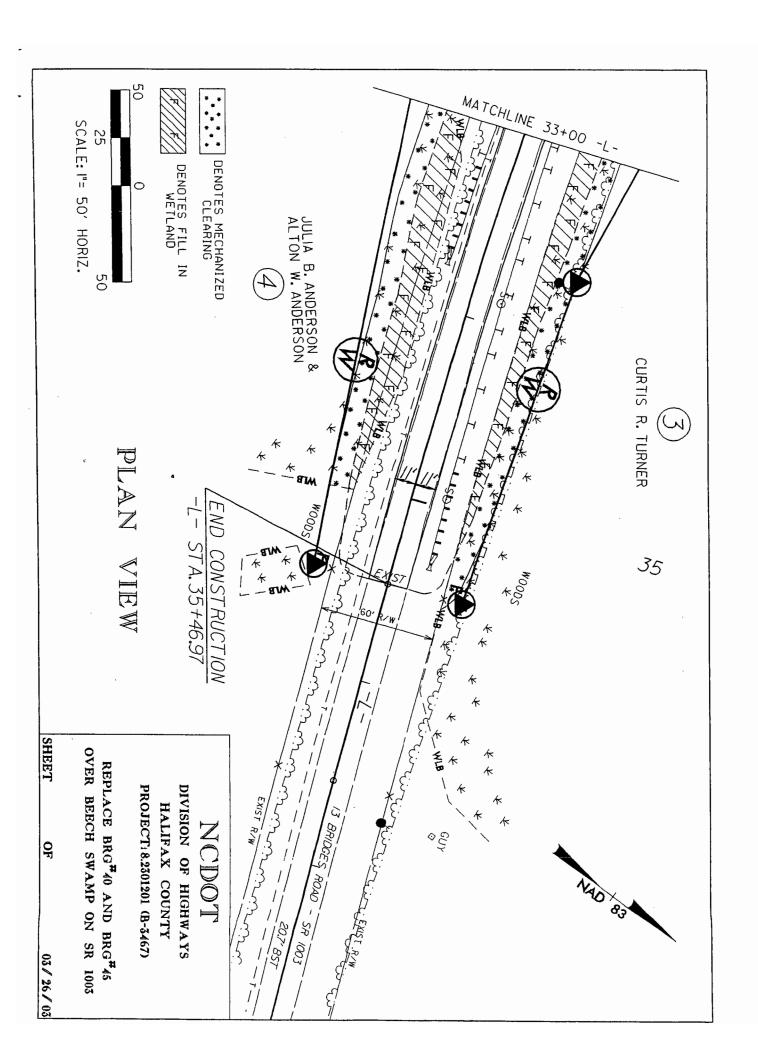






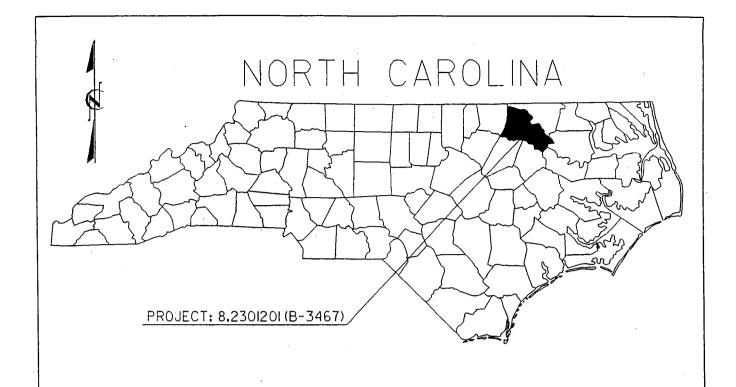


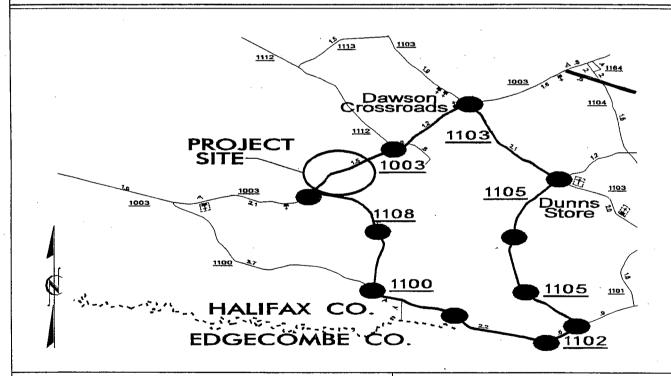




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| OF | BRIDGE#40 AND #45 OVER BEECH SWAMP ON SR 1003 | DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS HALIFAX COUNTY PROJECT 8.2301201 (B-3467) | NCI | 0.001 | | | | | | | | | | | 0.001 | (ac) | In SW | Temp. Fill | | |
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VICINITY MAPS

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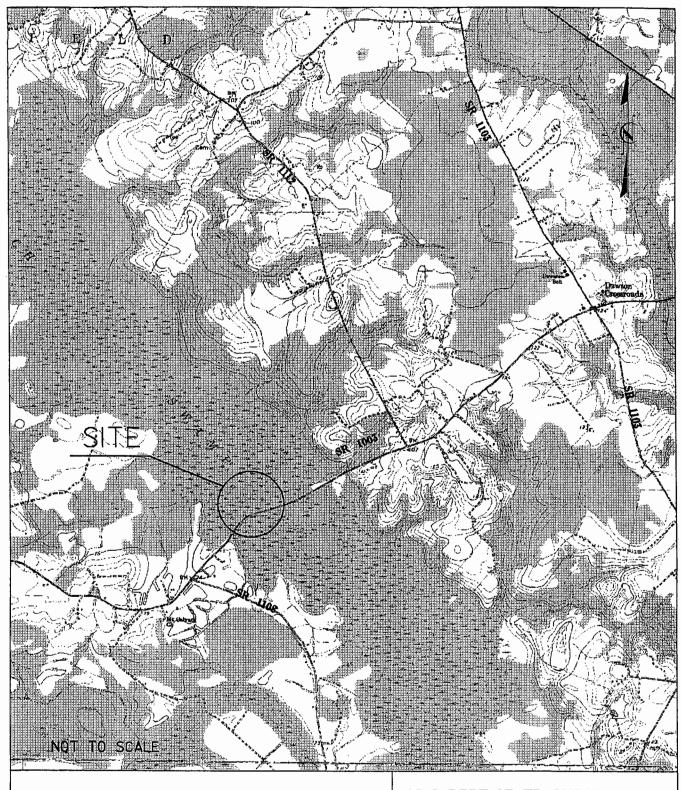
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS HALIFAX COUNTY PROJECT: 8.2301201 (B-3467)

REPLACE BRG#40 AND BRG#45 OVER BEECH SWAMP ON SR 1003

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LOCATION MAP

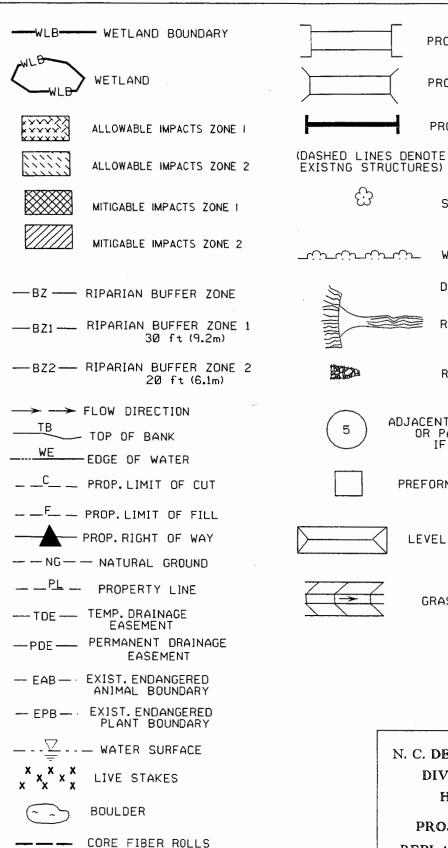
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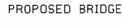
REPLACE BRG#40 AND BRG#45 OVER BEECH SWAMP ON SR 1003

SHEET 3 OF 4 03 / 26 / 03

BUFFER

LEGEND





PROPOSED BOX CULVERT

PROPOSED PIPE CULVERT 12"-48"

EXISTNG STRUCTURES)

PIPES 54° PIPES & ABOVE

SINGLE TREE

WOODS LINE

DRAINAGE INLET



RIP RAP

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER OR PARCEL NUMBER IF AVAILABLE

PREFORMED SCOUR HOLE (PSH)

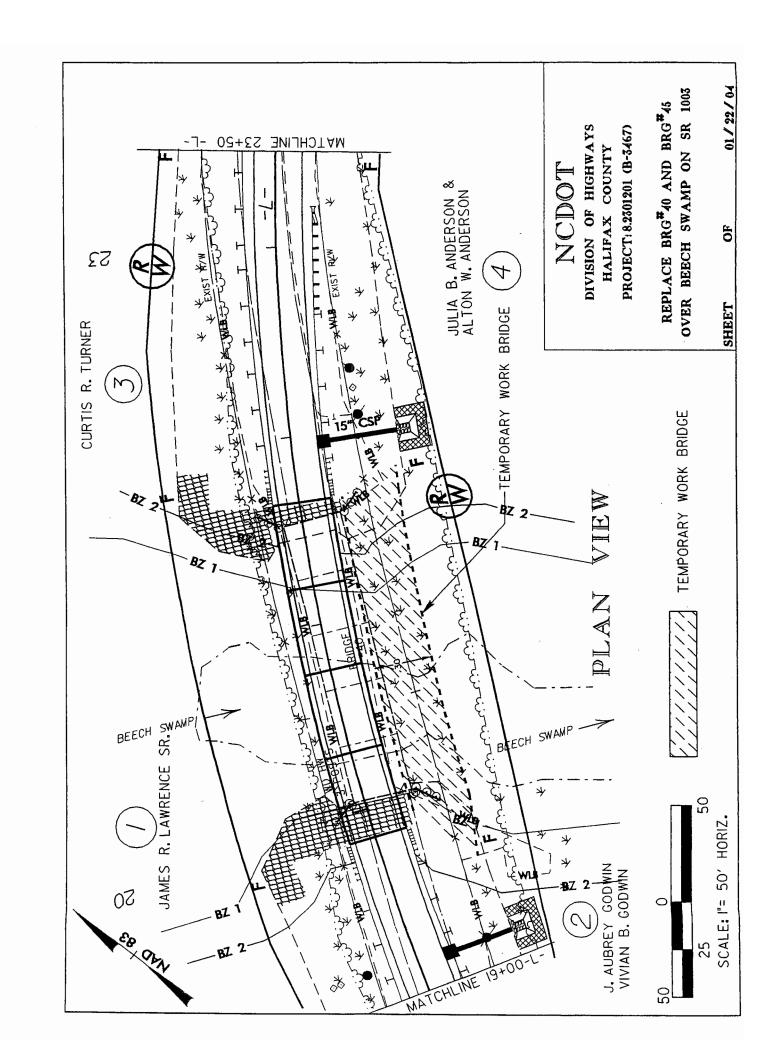
LEVEL SPREADER (LS)

GRASS SWALE

N. C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS HALIFAX COUNTY

PROJECT: 8.2301201 (B-3467) REPLACE BRG#40 AND BRG#45 OVER BEECH SWAMP ON SR 1003

SHEET OF 03 / 27 / 03



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N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
HALIFAX COUNTY
PROJECT: 8.2301201 (8-3467)

REPLACE BRG#40 AND #45 OVER BEECH SWAMP ON SR 1003

SHEET 5 OF 6 03/26/03